

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 FMC-04 SS-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 /058 R

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DRAFTED BY:TRANS. AND INS.DIV./OTP/BIC:SDJOHNSON

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EA/K:MR. NEWSOME (PHONE)

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R 252114Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 210927

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN,KS

SUBJECT: INCREASED CHARGES AT PORT OF INCHON

REFERENCE: SEOUL 6965 10/16/73

(1) PACIFIC WESTBOUND CONFERENCE (PWC) FILED AN INCREASE IN THE ARBITRARY CHARGE APPLIED TO INCHON WITH THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION (FMC) ON SEPTEMBER 10. THE INCREASE FROM \$6.00 TO \$12.00 WILL BE EFFECTIVE ON DECEMBER 14, AFTER THE REQUIRED 90-DAY NOTICE. THIS IS IN INCREASE IN THE ARBITRARY OR DIFFERENTIAL CHARGE THAT IS ADDED TO THE JAPAN BASE PORT TARIFF IN DETERMINING OCEAN FREIGHT RATES TO INCHON AND NOT A TEMPORARY PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE.

(2) FAR EAST CONFERENCE (FEC) FILED A SIMILAR INCREASE WITH THE FMC ON OCTOBER 1 TO RAISE ITS ARBITRARY TO INCHON FROM \$4 TO \$10. THIS ARBITRARY IS CHARGED OVER
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AND ABOVE THE RATE TO PUSAN AND WILL BE EFFECTIVE

JANUARY 1, 1974.

(3) A CHANGE IN AN ARBITRARY CHARGE, WHICH USUALLY IS PERMANENT IN EFFECT, IS NORMALLY FILED WITH THE FMC WITHOUT SUPPORTING JUSTIFICATION AND BECOMES EFFECTIVE AFTER A REQUIRED NOTICE PERIOD UNLESS CHALLENGED BY AN AGGRIEVED PARTY OR BY THE FMC. A TEMPORARY PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE IS FILED IN INSTANCES IN WHICH A PORT HAS BECOME SERIOUSLY CONGESTED AND SHIP TURN-AROUND TIME HAS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY.

(4) THE QUESTION OF ARBITRARIES TO KOREAN PORTS WAS DISCUSSED AT THE FIFTH COMMERCE MINISTERS MEETING AND PURSUANT TO THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE COMMERCE HAS CONVEYED ROKG CONCERN TO THE FMC.

(5) SINCE THE INCREASED ARBITRARY CHARGES WILL GO INTO EFFECT UNLESS THEY ARE CHALLENGED, INTERESTED PARTIES MAY WISH TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE FMC. THE FMC HAS ESTABLISHED BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING PROBLEMS OF THIS SORT AND WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SUCH PARTIES IN COMPLYING WITH ITS ADMINISTRATIVE FORMALITIES.

(6) ANY SUPPORTING INFORMATION AS TO PORT CONGESTION AT INCHON THAT THE EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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